

Maine Revised Statutes
Title 32: PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS
Chapter 16: DENTISTS AND DENTAL HYGIENISTS

§1094-GG. WRITTEN PRACTICE AGREEMENT; STANDING ORDERS

A dental hygiene therapist may practice only under the direct supervision of a dentist who is licensed in this State, referred to in this subchapter as "the supervising dentist," and through a written practice agreement signed by both parties. For the purposes of this section, a written practice agreement is a signed document that, in conformity with the legal scope of practice provided in section 1094-HH, outlines the functions that the dental hygiene therapist is authorized to perform. A dental hygiene therapist may practice only under the standing order of a dentist, may provide only care that follows written protocols and may provide only services that the dental hygiene therapist is authorized to provide by that dentist. [2013, c. 575, §7 (NEW).]

1. Minimum written practice agreement requirements. A written practice agreement between a supervising dentist and a dental hygiene therapist must include the following elements:

- A. The services and procedures and the practice settings for those services and procedures that the dental hygiene therapist may provide, together with any limitations on those services and procedures; [2013, c. 575, §7 (NEW).]
- B. Any age-specific and procedure-specific practice protocols, including case selection criteria, assessment guidelines and imaging frequency; [2013, c. 575, §7 (NEW).]
- C. Procedures to be used with patients treated by the dental hygiene therapist for obtaining informed consent and for creating and maintaining dental records; [2013, c. 575, §7 (NEW).]
- D. A plan for review of patient records by the supervising dentist and the dental hygiene therapist; [2013, c. 575, §7 (NEW).]
- E. A plan for managing medical emergencies in each practice setting in which the dental hygiene therapist provides care; [2013, c. 575, §7 (NEW).]
- F. A quality assurance plan for monitoring care, including patient care review, referral follow-up and a quality assurance chart review; [2013, c. 575, §7 (NEW).]
- G. Protocols for administering and dispensing medications, including the specific circumstances under which medications may be administered and dispensed; [2013, c. 575, §7 (NEW).]
- H. Criteria for providing care to patients with specific medical conditions or complex medical histories, including requirements for consultation prior to initiating care; and [2013, c. 575, §7 (NEW).]
- I. Specific written protocols, including a plan for providing clinical resources and referrals, governing situations in which the patient requires treatment that exceeds the scope of practice or capabilities of the dental hygiene therapist. [2013, c. 575, §7 (NEW).]

[2013, c. 575, §7 (NEW).]

2. Responsibility. The supervising dentist shall accept responsibility for all authorized services and procedures performed by the dental hygiene therapist pursuant to the written agreement. A dental hygiene therapist who provides services or procedures beyond those authorized in the written agreement engages in unprofessional conduct for the purposes of this chapter.

[2013, c. 575, §7 (NEW).]

3. Revision. Revisions to the written practice agreement must be documented in a new written practice agreement signed by the supervising dentist and the dental hygiene therapist.

[2013, c. 575, §7 (NEW) .]

4. Requirements. A supervising dentist and a dental hygiene therapist who sign a written practice agreement shall each file a copy of the agreement with the board, keep a copy for the dentist's or dental hygiene therapist's own records and make a copy available to patients of the dental hygiene therapist upon request. The copy of the written practice agreement in the records of the board must be made available to the public upon request.

[2013, c. 575, §7 (NEW) .]

SECTION HISTORY

2013, c. 575, §7 (NEW) .

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